



FOR RELEASE:
April 22, 2009

CONTACT:
Irene Maslowski
Maslowski & Associates
(973) 226-1494
Irene@imassocpr.com

Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey honors Visionaries Richard J. Codey, Kenneth Mattfield and Isabel Baquero

SPRINGFIELD – Senate President and Former Gov. Richard J. Codey, Lion Isabel Baquero and the late Lion Kenneth Mattfield will be honored as the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey's 2009 Visionaries of the Year at an awards banquet at L'Affaire Fine Catering in Mountainside on Thursday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m.

"The commitment to eye, organ and tissue donation shown by this year's honorees has distinguished each of them as a leader in the fight to restore sight and save lives," says Margaret Chaplin, Executive Director of the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey. "Our Board of Directors is proud to recognize their extraordinary community service."

Sen. Codey sponsored the Hero Act, which will provide organ donation education in high schools and will ask every licensed driver and identification card holder in New Jersey to consider joining the state Donor Registry. The Hero Act also requires the creation of an online portal to join the NJ Registry.

Ms. Baquero, a member of the Elizabeth Colombian Lions Club, works tirelessly to promote eye, organ and tissue donation in the Hispanic community.

Mr. Mattfield was a member of the Springfield Lions Club and a strong advocate of eye, organ and tissue donation. He was instrumental in making the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey the valuable community resource it is today.

For more information about the event, or if you would like to attend, please contact Julia Harris-Montanez at Julia@lionseyebanknj.org or (800) 653-9379, ext. 201.

The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey is a subsidiary of Midwest Eye-Banks, a charitable not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. It recovers, evaluates and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education, and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. Visit www.lionseyebanknj.org or call (800) 653-9379 for more information.

